Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising partly hydrophobic silica particles ~~prepared by the process of claim 1~~ said partly hydrophobic silica particles having a contact angle θ in air for water of less than 180°, a degree of coverage τ of the surface of the silica with silylating agent residues, based on the total silica particle surface area, of $1\% < \tau < 50\%$, a density of surface silanol groups SiOH ranging between a minimum of 0.9 and a maximum of 1.7 SiOH/nm² particle surface area, and having a carbon content of more than 0% and up to [[20]] 2.0% by weight, and a methanol number of less than 30, said partly hydrophobic silica prepared by a process comprising silylating silica particles with

I) an organosilane of the formula

$$R^1_nSiX_{4-n}$$

where n is 1, 2 or 3

or mixtures of these organosilanes,

R^1 being a monovalent, optionally halogenated hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, being identical or different at each occurrence, and being saturated, aromatic, monounsaturated, or polyunsaturated,

X each independently being halogen, a nitrogen radical, OR^2, $OCOR^2$, or $O(CH_2)_xOR^2$,

R^2 being hydrogen or a monovalent hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and

x being 1, 2 or 3;

or

II) an organosiloxane composed of units of the formula

$(R^1_3SiO_{1/2})$, and/or

$(R^1_2SiO_{2/2})$, and/or

$(R^1SiO_{3/2})$

where R^1 is as defined above, or mixtures thereof,

the number of these units in one organosiloxane being at least 2; and I and II being used alone or in any desired mixtures in a total amount of from 0.015 mmol/g to 0.15 mmol/g per 100 m^2/g of silica BET surface area measured by the BET method in accordance with DIN 66131 and 66132.

8. - 14. (Cancelled).